

Application No.:09/683,795  
Amendment dated: December 17, 2003

b.) Remarks

1. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 12-18 were allowed. Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were rejected. Claims 8, 11 were objected to.

Claim 8 was rewritten in the independent format as Claim 1 and is believed to be allowable. Claim 11 now depends off allowable rewritten Claim 1 and should be allowable. Dependent Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, and 11 were amended to correct informalities and make them consistent with rewritten independent Claim 1. Claim 8 was cancelled.

It is believed that Claims 1-7, 9-11 are now allowable. Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-7, 9-18 is now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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